

Valley Bees Monthly Meeting Minutes for September 2018

Sunday 9 September, Honeybee Farm. Meeting opened by Eric at 1-30pm

Apologies from Joan McVilly, Dan and Marilyn Luck, Victor and Mariana Prosch, Skaidra Craig, Alan and Michele Felmingham, Cynthia Pearson, Robyn Bowman, Kaye Cheval, Barbara Sullivan.

Everyone received minutes. Any business arising? Pauline moved true reading, Michael 2nd. Passed.

Treasurer's Report

MRCCC Account has \$2292-62 from last meeting, still stands

Bendigo Bank Account \$907-32 from last meeting, Deposited \$399-75, Paid out \$764-02, mostly for Apithor

Total \$543-05

Total in both \$2835-67, Jeanne moved read, Sara 2nd

Noted

Noted new embroidered badges for Valley Bees, and new carry bags.

Noted that we are producing a display, in honour for our friend and member Alan Biel.

Noted by Eric. Thanks for list of clear instructions for the exhibitors and speakers, compiled by Glenbo with assistance from Volunteer Heads, good job.

Change of date for October VB Meeting

Noted that our next meeting, scheduled for 14 October, will be brought forward one week, to Sunday 7th October. Honeybee Farm Manager Phil has respectfully requested a change, due to a large event being held on the weekend of the 14th. We considered getting the hall Kandanga on the 14th, but elected to go for the week before. Moved the October Valley Bees Monthly Meeting will be held at the Honeybee Farm on Sunday 7 October, as usual 1pm for a 1-30pm start.

Vic moved, Maree 2nd. Passed at the meeting.

Report Landcare Session - Vic

Held our session last Saturday, a dozen or so people attended, some from further afield, including Maryborough, Blacksnake and down the coast. Goal to start 2 new nucs, new super. Made up frames with wiring and foundation. Noted that Athol came along, and he was quickly put to work by Vic.

Created 2 new nucs at same time, at each end of the hive-line, with Vic on one end, and Athol on the other. People noted it was great to observe the two different situations and techniques. Plenty to learn.

Took a reasonable amount of honey from the hives. Extracted these to demonstrate.

Queen got upstairs in the flow hive, she was removed and put below, released drones from the top super.

Noted that a couple Peter and Cindy from Blacksnake (where Vic lives) talked to Vic (hadn't met them). They had a hive not doing anything. When Vic then visited Uncle Eugene (a way across country), Eugene commented 'Peter just got home' – he could hear the dog barking in the distance.

Noted that with Uncle Eugene, it is a real privilege to spend time with him. Vic has 10 hives on Eugene's property, took him 2 days to work it. Discussed native blue quondong fruit, grabbed one and scooped straight into it. If going on a hike, they take the skin off, green flesh inside, not real tasty but tolerated. It stimulates saliva, so you never get thirsty on a trek.

Discussed how koalas had started mating the previous night, lots of loud continuous grunting, they mated every year in a nearby big old ironbark. (So, ironbark's are not just good for honey flows!!! ☺)

Vic then visited Peter and assisted. Two years hadn't been looked in to, top box still had foundations in it! Bees were drawing out 3 in middle, all with big drone cells. Bottom box, combs all right, but only brood in 3 frames. Honey in frames either side, but empty frames outside that, not touched by the Queen. Because honey in brood frames was old and capped, bees didn't shift it, and Queen didn't move beyond these. Peter blamed gum top box, it knocks the bee hives around, but maybe another reason.

Noted on native bees, noted that 100 or more phorid flies around perspex observation hive. Suggested that to repel phorid fly, make a mix of cedarwood oil with lemongrass oil, and mix with vaselive. Vic believes this is keeping phorid fly away from hive, but hasn't gone into the hive since putting on.

Honeybee Farm Report - Phil

Workshop couple weeks ago, 18 people attended, good number. Thanks for Vic for assisting, Tom missed the day as he was volunteering at the Ekka. Derek strengthening one workbench, drill from Dan and Roxy. You-beaut drill for drilling solitary bee nests.

Beetle in number 1 hive, quite a lot. None in other hives. Flow hive bees have eaten stored honey. We drained one honey frame, and also took 2 frames to spin out in the extractor. Next week on 22nd, next Honeybee Farm session.

On Tuesday noted a swarm, near the hives. Our resident bee whisperer Deb got dressed up, swarm was at head height, so Deb snipped and dumped into nuc box. Left box on ground in front of tree, until late evening. Moved it across to other hives, all good. Swarm came from number 1 or 3 hive. In nuc box had 4 frames of foundation.

Noted: Rob always puts a frame of brood in with newly created nuc. Some beekeepers do this, and some don't. Both techniques seem to work well. Athol, noted that bees swarming are gorged, loaded hop with honey and fully primed to build wax.

Athol noted that back 10 years, one of his hives filled a fully empty 10 foundation frame box in only about a week.

With swarms, if a scout bees comes back into the clustered swarm with in with message of a good site for the swarm to move to, they do a dance to indicate the site, and swarm moves off to that new site. So best to move the swarm in the nuc box as soon as possible away from where it had landed. Once again, it was noted that some keepers still keep the nuc where it is, with relatively good success. Mark puts a queen separator on his nuc.

Bloke in yandina he uses 3 boxes, with a queen separator. Queen separator holds queen in, she can't get out, top box just a funnel, and later take bottom one away.

Final swarm story: Monday got a call Endeavour House in Gympie. Vic busy, so Phil attended. Bees all over outside wall of brick wall above

damp course, bees getting in through weep holes. In office you could hear them.

Vic - best to insecticide, plug up and lose the hive, sometimes no choice. Brisbane office had said knock hole in wall and take bees out. Not always possible.

Glenbo suggested if hive is killed off, create a new hive especially and let the people know this, so this replaces the negativity of the situation with newly created hive and a good outcome.

You can feel the warmth of the hive in the wall, also moisture can form on the outside of wall lining where hive is.

Noted from (----- his name to be supplied later, I didn't record who said this)

He is a carpenter and comfortable with bees, lives in Eurumba, and can be available for swarm removal from buildings.

Mark - Bees in house, underneath house, entering in weep holes under landing. Wanted to renovate, sprayed a bit at entry, masonite sheeting removed, very very messy inside wall, managed to save most of hive, but can be a very messy business.

Native Bee Report - Derek

Very little to report. Unsure of what to do for next native bee session. Trying to get education hive for next week Bee Open Day, main focus on the day will be on Education Method of hive duplication. Is getting photos of the "MacIntosh Method" Hive will be closed off and bring in with inspection covers to Open Day. Any ideas for our native bee sessions, or anyone with hives to split, please contact Derek.

Landcare Birthday Event - Report

Athol reported that last Sunday Landcare Gympie celebrated its 30th birthday, event, Valley Bees represented by Vic, Athol and Glenbo.

Had the PhotoHive there to display. Took in 16 frames, 32 photos. Athol noted it created a huge interest, particularly with children... "I stroked the Queen" Good day. Lots of displays and workshops. Pleased to note that our site next to All In The Cup coffee van. Vic donated his honey on the day, to give out to people. One commented: I've never tasted such honey since my uncle kept bees.

Mel (who is associated with Landcare management) noted it was a great day, proud of what we are trying. Landcare are struggling to get 80 members, need more active members

Top Bar Hive Report - Scott

Scott reported that both top bars going okay, managing a stable level, full brood spread all through the box. I, Langstroth hive, better idea of health of hive by viewing, in top bar no idea, it's like 3 brood boxes side by side. One hive calm, other hive going mad! Producing micro swarms, hanging out at end of top bar hive. A tiny swarm came left hive, landed in grass. At night Scott got a shovel, picked whole hive up, brought 'inside,' took out in morning, added frame of brood, seems to be doing well. Getting a bit of honey from top bars.

Pauline report on Mary Valley Show, Imbil

Thanks to all who participated, went very well. Judges were great, though Reg commented: I knew the judges and still couldn't a prize! Very successful day. Results from Show read out, and prizes / certificates handed out.

Cut and Paste Tuesday

Coming up next week. Discuss and organise as well as cut and paste for the Bee Open Day.

Business cards and cloth embroidered badges and bags

All were presented. Look good. New badges on cloth \$4-50 each. Can sew, glue, put a pin on back.

Bee Open Day

All teams organised. Please everyone, sign on on the day, very important. You will receive a VB vest. Stall holders to sign a separate form. There will be a special Volunteers Tent on the day, self serve tea, coffe, cakes, cold water. Lotza Limez lime cordial etc. Seating. Special gazebo. Free for stall holders and volunteers. This has been sponsored this year by Eric and Jeanne, big thanks.

Pick ups and deliveries discussed.

4 smokers given to us for raffle, from Carol Park

Plenty more discussed, but the Minutes note-taker was too busy talking!!!!

Asked: if club buys bee gear in bulk, can we get a discount to pass on to members?

Noted: we need orange witches hats for the Open Day (they are available in the hall from the school, and Eric has 4)

Membership

Suggested we look at possibility of increasing new membership, 30 to 40 for couple/family, 20 to 30 for individual. This remains a once-off payment, not renewed each year. Suggested bag and badge and information package (suppliers, required forms and new beekeeper info package, QBA booklet, maybe disease booklet) offered free to new members included in this package.

Met with varied reaction, healthy debate followed, and many different ideas and alternatives were proposed. Suggested also that we can run a few Native Hive Raffles throughout year to raise some funds as well.

Noted: suggested we all give it some thought, think about our options as a club / membership etc, and discuss in future meetings. Follow up being done on costings.

It was brought up that we should remember we are a Community Group, fostering new people coming into the bee industry, and decisions should reflect this.

New business - Sara

Approached by Denis Grenshaw, Rotary Club, Showgrounds, Quilt and Craft Show on Nov 3 and 4, proceeds go to Palliative Care.

Requested Valley Bees have a stall. Howie and Sara willing to take on. 2 day event. Can sell honey and bee products. In the Pavillion, calling for volunteers to help on the 2 days. Jeanne and Glenbo offered. Look at some of our producers (Pauline, Jae, Betty, FlowHive etc) be represented.

Tom Poems

Phil has put together the series of poems that Tom has been reading out over the years, well done.

At last meeting Tom had a chat to Scott about different sizes of boxes and frames. There are 4 different sizes: all diehards like full depths, where everything is interchangeable, but there is also WSP, Ideal and Halsf sizes. When you get old, sometimes lose strength, and are likely to downsize, so there's a little verse...(read out)

Bill – new laws

Bill has been following up on new laws for having beehives, Council controlled, in urban and rural areas. We as a club should look at compiling this new info, and make it available to members in a clear, precise and easily understood document.

Kayle – talk on the Capilano Honey situation

Kayle presented a very good spiel and wrap-on to clear the air on the current media stories and hype on imported honey and Capilano, as presented by somebody who works closely in the industry. His talk was very concise and informed, and gave a very good overview of honey, commercial honey, packers, imported honey, and the truth vs hype regarding the stories.

Notes were taken, and further information has come to hand.

This will be typed up soon and presented in a document available online on our website. It was suggested we produce this document, with Kayle's info, combined with information Glenbo has accessed for the University of the SC, for clarity in the industry. Please bear with us while we produce this. We'll notify all when this is available online.

Meeting closed at 3-40pm

Supper time, random bee-banter

Raffle drawn - winners were Kayle, and Veronica.

But we're all winners, as beekeepers, aren't we?

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Note

Valley Bees now has their Bee Registration # V108.

Our Committee:

Chair • Eric Jordan • jeanneanderic@live.com.au

Vice Chair • Pauline Alexander • palmsalt234@gmail.com

Treasurer • Jeanne Jordan • jeanneanderic@live.com.au

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